



Dr. Angus M. Woodbury, retired U. of U. biologist, pointing at Indian pictographs found along banks of Colorado River gorge above Glen Canyon

Photo — courtesy Stan Rasmussen, Bureau of Reclamation
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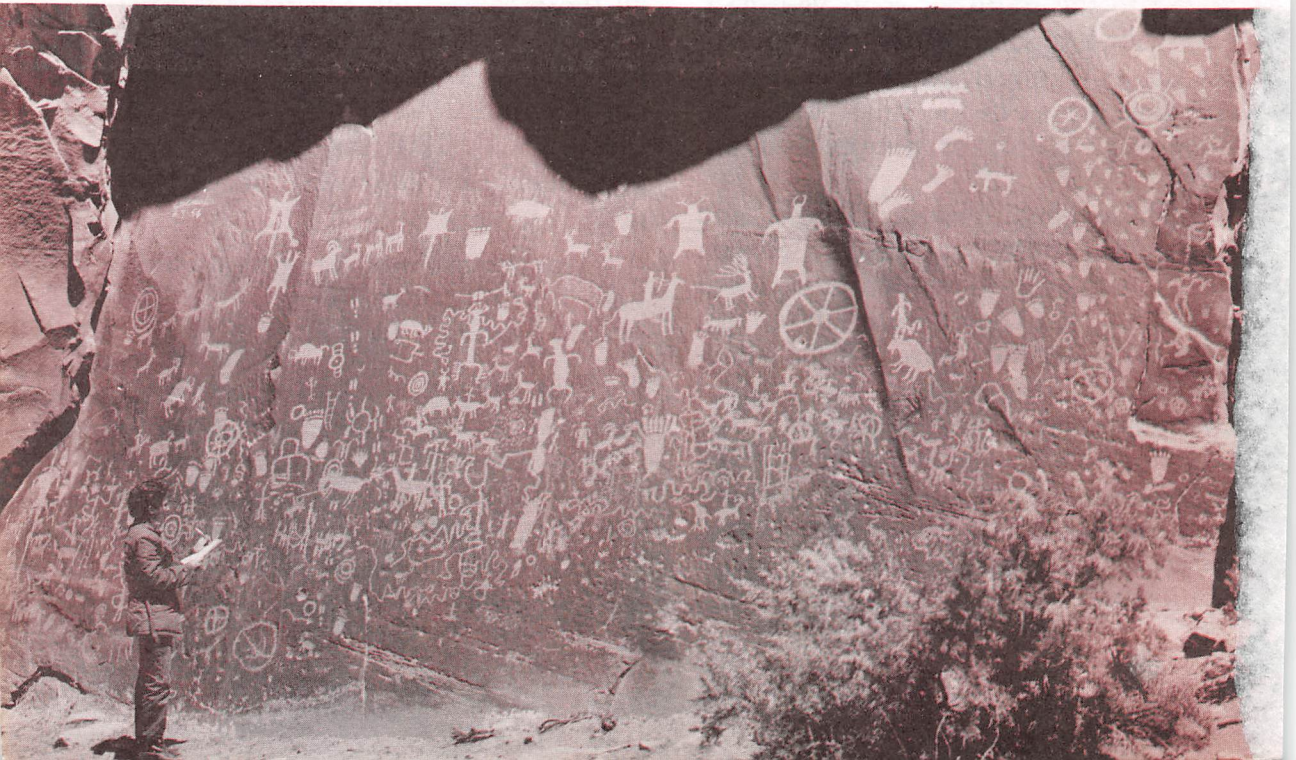
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during that 23-year period. They migrated to the south, or south and east. No doubt thousands of the pueblo people died of hunger, as both wild food and that grown in the small farms became very scarce or disappeared entirely.

"Those conditions of drought and starvation resulted in fighting between towns, and many pueblos were burned after their inhabitants were killed. This provides a second cause for the abandonment of the pueblos; and a third cause, claimed by some scholars, is that the Navaho and Apache Indians arrived in Utah from the north during this period. Through their raids they helped drive the non-warlike pueblo peoples southward.

"It may have been a combination of all these causes; but whatever the reason or reasons, it is definitely known that the pueblos were abandoned throughout Utah after A.D. 1250. It is certain that by A.D. 1300 the high and complex pueblo culture went out of existence."

"Are any of the Indian peoples today believed to be descendants of the Utah pueblo peoples?" Sharon asked.

"Yes, Sharon, there are pueblo peoples still living today. The principal ones are the Hopi, Zuni, and Rio Grande pueblo tribes of Arizona and New Mexico. It is thought by many scholars that they are descendants of the Utah Pueblo Cliff Dwellers."